EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

Funding Innovative Solutions to Environmental Problems

EPA's SBIR Program provides support to small businesses to translate their innovative ideas into commercial products that address environmental problems. These innovations are the primary source of new technologies that can provide improved environmental protection at lower cost with better performance and effectiveness.

Typical Phase I Research and Development Topics:

- Pollution Prevention
- Nanotechnology
- Air Pollution Control and Monitoring
- Drinking Water Treatment and Monitoring
- Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Solid Waste Recycling
- Hazardous Waste Management and Site Remediation
- Safe Buildings
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Security
- Special Program and Regional Needs

For More Information:

Previous solicitations and summaries of awarded projects are available on the EPA SBIR Web Site at: www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir.

New SBIR Technologies for Arsenic in Drinking Water

Issue:

EPA's new 10 ppb standard for arsenic in drinking water requires community water systems to be in compliance by January 2006. Most utilities affected by this rule are small systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people. There is a need for cost-effective treatment technologies to help water systems meet this new standard.

Solution:

Through EPA's SBIR Program, several small companies are developing arsenic treatment technologies.

- **HydroTech Engineering** is working on a limestone-based media to reduce arsenic in drinking water at the source or point of use. This technology has the added benefit of a stable and benign waste product that can be disposed of in ordinary landfills or used as a concrete additive.

- **ADA Technologies, Inc.,** is developing a compact, simple adsorption system for arsenic removal in point of use/point of entry drinking water systems. The unit combines a highly effective arsenic sorbent with an arsenic-monitoring sensor and alarm to alert the user that the bed requires replacement.

- **VEETech, PC,** in conjunction with Lehigh University, currently is testing novel hybrid sorbents (HIXs) for the removal of arsenic from drinking water. The HIXs are polymeric/inorganic hybrid sorbents in which cation exchange resin beads are irreversibly and uniformly coated with hydrated ferric oxide materials.